

SNIPPETS

From here and there



Summer 2018

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The Maleny Garden Club extends a warm invitation to all members and visitors to attend the monthly general meetings held on the last Tuesday of each month, as per program for the year.

Note from the Editor

Once again it has been a busy year for our club and members. The year's highlights as always are GOE, Christmas Lunch at the Manor, and SIP and Snip functions (a great time to socialise).

Thank you to all those who contribute to making Snippets a success, especially to Pat Powell, Peter Owens and Kevin Radbourne who are always willing to provide an article when we are short of articles for that particular edition.

May I wish each of you a lovely festive season and safe travel. We then look forward to seeing you bright and refreshed after your coming Christmas and New Year break.

This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall,
Or as a moat defensive to a house,
Against the envy of less happier lands.
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm,
this England.

(This England April 2016)

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

Every spring, Toowoomba transforms into a kaleidoscope of colour and excitement as gardeners from the city and surrounding country regions compete for honours in the Chronicle Garden Competition. The winning gardens are open to the public, free of charge for 10 glorious days.

Despite this year's drought, said to be "the worst in living memory" there were about 70 beautiful prize-winning city gardens and nearly 50 country gardens in up to 24 different categories! As well, there are usually four to six showcased exhibition gardens which are open to raise funds for charity.

Visitors from all over the world enjoy imaginative settings and vivid flower displays at Toowoomba's gorgeous parks, such as Queen's Park, Laurel Bank Park, Picnic Point and the picturesque historical railway station, Spring Bluff.

Added attractions are magnificent plant shows (our favourites are the clivia, geranium, and orchid shows), street parade, food and wine festival, free concerts, art exhibitions, many craft shows, amazing nurseries and coffee lounges full of ambiance!!

Quick Quiz

1. Which event did US President Franklin D Roosevelt call "A day that will live in infamy"?
2. Naan is the Persian word for what?
3. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
4. Which country financed Christopher Columbus' 1492 exploration?

See back page for answers

Much Ado about Shakespeare.

2016 was the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death, the life and work of William Shakespeare. (*and I missed it!!*)
Even though it is late, here is a famous poem from Richard 11 (John Gaunt's speech)

This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war.

This happy breed of men, this little world,

Now garden club friends, you can understand why we take our caravan and stay for this magnificent event for 8-10 days! I would encourage each one of you to visit and enjoy this “Flower Heaven” at least for a few days next September!

Bette Weston

Wisdom Quotes

*Life is 10% what happens and 90% of how you react to it. *Mark Twain*

*The best revenge is massive success. *Frank Sinatra*

* I walk slowly but never backwards. *Abraham Lincoln*

*What I am is good enough, if I would only be it openly. *Carl Rogers*

*To succeed in life, you need two things: ignorance and confidence. *Mark Twain*

Plan for the Future

Now is the time for most Garden Club members to plan their garden for their older years. Over thirty years ago when I ‘retired’ to my acre of garden I knew the garden would have to become easier, with limitations as I aged. My aim was to manage this area as long as possible. I am sure most of you have the same aim.

So number one decision is on the garden type you really want to spend your limited time and energy. Is it a rose garden, a picking garden, a small showy cottage garden or in my case, a vegetable garden for the kitchen and some friends. Make the rest as easy care as possible.

A few years ago, with more energy than I have now, I established a vegetable garden in full sun closer to the house. The herb garden expanded to a vegetable garden, still incorporating the herbs. The mint grows in a self-watering pot placed over a rock too large to remove.

The talks at the monthly meetings have introduced me to a new way of treating that necessary and valuable ingredient for a garden: soil. Fungi have become a dominant part of my garden, not the interesting and sometimes beautiful fruit but the web of threads which connect our plants and dominate our soil structure. The beneficial bacteria in the soil are fragile so our aim is to improve rather than destroy with harmful sprays and chemical fertilisers.

It all started with a talk on fungi which conveyed the message of too much disturbance to the soil will upset the fungi. Then we had a talk on Troforte which improves the soil and encourages fungi. This has been a staple for the garden with marked improvement. Small quantities of blood and bone, animal fertilisers and fish emulsion still find a home in my garden store area. The ph is adjusted with the use of dolomite for grass lawn, fruit trees and the vegie patch. Natives have adjusted to the ph of our soils so the addition of dolomite is dangerous to the health and life of natives.

The chooks have been replaced by a compact fertiliser production unit in the form of a worm farm..The juice and compost generated by these industrious creatures has also contributed to my organic garden.

I’m not sure why I ignored the benefits of these hard-working worms for so long, when we have a worm farmer at Landsborough who is so willing to impart his valuable knowledge with this fresh product.

Aim for a low maintenance garden with containers distributed around for weeds. These weeds can be soaked in water for three to four weeks to make a rich liquid fertiliser. Try to keep as much waste and prunings on your property, avoid aiming for “too tidy”.

Keep a critical open mind to new ideas, - garden a little each day, binding and stretching to keep as strong as possible so that you may enjoy gardening for many years.

Reading material- “The Hidden Life of Trees”(in our library). “Call of the Red Warbler.” Charles Massey.

Travels in Singapore and Thailand

This year John and I had babysitting duties in Singapore. To recover from the exhaustion of helping the maid care for Peter 3 and Jack 1 (Oh the joy of live in help) ...we had 10 days in Thailand

I have written before about the amazing gardens of Singapore. Definitely should be on your Bucket list. Here are a couple of snaps from two years ago to tempt you:

National Orchid Garden



Gardens by the sea plant towers



Thailand, as you can imagine, is lush and green and quickly reverts to jungle if not managed. We spent an enjoyable time in Bangkok which was less frenetic than we had been lead to believe...perhaps because we commuted by ferry and train rather than car; Chiang Mai where we visited temples and played with elephants, in a mud hole....well John did, I was the official photographer (snigger); and Phuket where we stayed in a beach side resort and drank more cocktails than was healthy, but their mangos and coconuts are divine in a glass with all sorts of mixers.

Orchids in the National Orchid Garden



Flower display at Gardens by the Bay



In my mind Thailand is synonymous with fabulous food and friendly happy people. (Actually that is our experience of all Asian countries) and we did dine very well every meal. Two desserts were our particular favourites and we had them many, many times: Mango with Sticky Rice and Coconut Ice Cream....well we walked a LOT and it was HOT!!!

Landing in Brisbane, we detoured through one of the Asian groceries in The Valley and bought two kilograms of Sticky Rice. It is a different type of rice and isn't sold in the usual supermarkets. That night I made my first batch of Sticky Rice and it was quite good if I do say so myself.... well John had two helpings.

As it is mango season here is an easy version of the recipe, I hope you enjoy it:

Thai Sweet Sticky Rice with Mango

Preparation: 8hours › Cook: 15min › Ready in: 8hours
15min Serves: 4

- 1 1/4 cups (250g) uncooked glutinous (sticky) rice or short-grain white rice
- 1 1/2 cups (375ml) coconut milk
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (125ml) coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 mangoes, peeled and sliced

If using sticky rice; soak the rice overnight and then rinse well and steam till cooked. If using short-grain rice, add the rice and about 450ml of water to a pot and bring to a boil; cover and reduce heat to low. Simmer until water is absorbed, 15 to 20 minutes.

1. While the rice cooks, mix together 1 1/2 cups coconut milk, 1/2 cup sugar and 1/2 teaspoon salt in a saucepan over medium heat; bring to a boil; remove from heat and set aside. Stir the cooked rice into the coconut milk mixture; cover. Allow to cool for 1 hour.
2. Make a coconut sauce by mixing together in a saucepan the other 1/2 cup coconut milk, 1 tablespoon sugar and bring to a boil.
3. Place the sticky rice on a serving dish. Arrange the mangoes on top of the rice. Pour the sauce over the mangoes and rice. Sprinkle with sesame seeds if desired. Copyright allrecipes.com.au





Outback Style

In August of this year I had the pleasure of volunteering on Maiden Springs Cattle Station, approximately 6 hours west of Townsville. I flew to Townsville and caught the Inlander Train which departed at 12.40pm and arrived in Hughenden at 8.05pm where I was met by Tanya and the boys, William and Campbell. We drove out to the property the next afternoon and once we left the Hann Highway it was another 32 km to the front gate. The property consists of 84,000 acres, so when you go for a walk you follow a certain track, otherwise it would be so easy for one to get lost in the bush.

Garry & I had volunteered on the property in 2009, 2011 and 2013 as part of **VISE - Volunteers for Isolated Students Education**. Each visit was a six-week placement, I would teach in the school room Monday to Friday while Garry mustered, did GPS tracking for the paddocks, checked water troughs, etc. etc. It was always a very rewarding experience for both of us. Clear days and starry nights, sunrises and sunsets were beautiful to behold. Tanya loves gardening, but the challenges in this part of the country are many.

After bugs and black spot on the two rose gardens in the front of the house, Tanya decided to go with plants more suited to the climate. As a result, succulents, cacti and native plants have become the plants of choice. Tanya finds gardening providing some time for herself. After school I would water whatever plants were in need, however the beauty of the succulents and cacti are they need be watered only occasionally. I would then help with dinner preparations before heading over to the quarters for a relaxing cup of tea and a read.

A colourful array of potted succulents and cacti are on display in the house yard as well as many natives dotted here and there. Tanya manages to keep the house yard green thanks to the spring creek, a bore and whatever rainfall drops from the sky. January and February are usually the wettest months with the monsoon trough bringing good rainfall. The first six months this year kept the cattle in good feed, however since August they have been providing a protein supplement to keep the cattle in good condition.

William (13) and Campbell (11) are amazing boys, both have a sense of responsibility well beyond their years. When not in school they can usually be found on their motor bikes or quad bikes helping their dad, Mick out in the paddocks with the cattle.

I take my hat off to people on the land, especially the women who wear many hats.

Wife, mother, teacher, accountant, budget planner, cook not only for the family but for as many as eight to ten people when mustering is on.

This year my visit was only for 3 ½ weeks, but I plan to return for longer next time, as the teaching is so rewarding.

Happy Gardening & Volunteering.. Jan Maguire.

Gardening is Good for You.

Why gardening is good for you. Did you know that the words "garden" and "paradise" came from pretty much the same idea?

Both words mean an enclosed space protected from the wilderness. They are places where you're safe from the outside world. These days the "wilderness" you are dealing with is often the pressures of work or the stresses of daily life. The garden remains the best place to relax and recuperate.

Tim Bagshaw, Maleny Physiotherapy



Answers to Quick Quiz.

1. The attack on Pearl Harbour, 7th December 1941.
2. Bread.
3. At the bottom of the page. (We are all wrong!!).
4. Spain.

The Club's Objectives are: – To further knowledge and enjoyment of horticulture. – To raise awareness in the club and community of local environment and to encourage planting of local indigenous species. – To enjoy social interaction between members of this and similar clubs.

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